1   1.   A method comprising:

2   obtaining a list of known contacts on a wireless

3 device, including a first contact in-range from the device

4 and a second contact being out-of-range from the device;

5   automatically establishing a communication route

6 from the device to a first contact; and

7   automatically establishing a communication route

8 from the device to a second contact through the first

9 contact.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining a list of

2 known contacts includes acquiring information from a list

3 of addressees on a device.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 including automatically

2 exchanging lists of contacts with in-range devices,

3 comparing the lists of contacts, and identifying common

4 contacts in said lists.

1   4.   The method of claim 3 including exchanging lists

2 of common contacts between two devices with other in-range

3 devices.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 including storing

2 information sufficient to establish a communication route

3 from said device to said second contact.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 including storing
2   information related to said first contact.

1   7.   The method of claim 6 including storing
2   information about whether said second contact is active.

1   8.   The method of claim 7 including sharing
2   information with other in-range devices about whether said
3   first contact is active.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 including periodically
2   updating information about in-range devices.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 including storing an
2   alternative communication route to said second contact.

1   11.   An article comprising a medium storing
2   instructions that enables a processor-based system to:
3   obtain a list of known contacts on a wireless
4   device, including a first contact in-range from the device
5   and a second contact being out-of-range from the device;
6   automatically establish a communication route
7   from the device to a first contact; and

8   automatically establish a communication route

9   from the device to a second contact through the first

10 contact.

1   12.   The article of claim 11 further storing

2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to

3   acquire information from a list of addressees on a device.

1   13.   The article of claim 11 further storing

2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to

3   automatically exchange lists of contacts with in-range

4   devices, compare the lists of contacts, and identify common

5   contacts in said lists.

1   14.   The article of claim 13 further storing

2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to

3   exchange lists of common contacts between two devices with

4   other in-range devices.

1   15.   The article of claim 11 further storing

2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to

3   store information sufficient to establish a communication

4   route from said device to said second contact.

1   16.   The article of claim 11 further storing
2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3   store information related to said first contact.

1   17.   The article of claim 11 further storing
2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3   store information about whether said second contact is
4   active.

1   18.   The article of claim 17 further storing
2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3   share information with other in-range devices about whether
4   said first contact is active.

1   19.   The article of claim 11 further storing
2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3   periodically update information about in-range devices.

1   20.   The article of claim 11 further storing
2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3   store an alternative communication route to said second
4   contact.

1   21.   A system comprising:
2   a processor;

3   a storage coupled to said processor storing

4   instructions that enable the processor to:

5   obtain a list of known contacts on a

6   wireless device, including a first contact in-range from

7   the device and a second contact being out-of-range from the

8   device;

9   automatically establish a communication

10 route from the device to a first contact; and

11   automatically establish a communication

12 route from the device to a second contact through the first

13 contact.

1   22. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage

2   stores instructions that enable the processor to acquire

3   information from a list of addressees on a device.

1   23. The system of claim 21 wherein said storage

2   stores instructions that enable the processor to

3   automatically exchange of lists of contacts with in-range

4   devices, compare the lists of contacts, and identify common

5   contacts in said lists.

1   24. The system of claim 23 wherein said storage

2   stores instructions that enable the processor to exchange

3   lists of common contacts between two devices with other in-

4   range devices.

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1   25.   The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to store
3 information sufficient to establish a communication route
4 from said device to said second contact.

1   26.   The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to store
3 information related to said first contact.

1   27.   The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to store
3 information about whether said second contact is active.

1   28.   The system of claim 27 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to share
3 information with other in-range devices about whether said
4 first contact is active.

1   29.   The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to
3 periodically update information about in-range devices.

1   30.   The system of claim 21 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor to store an
3 alternative communication route to said second contact.